The Bee.

—TERMS:—

SUBSCRIPTION—

Per Year (in advance).....$1 00
Six Months " 50
Three Months " 25

TRANSIENT ADVERTISEMENTS—

Local Notices five cents per line each insertion.
Special Notices (Brevier) run with local reading matter, fifteen cents per line each insertion.
Rates by the quarter or year furnished on application to this office.

OBITUARIES or resolutions of respect, less than twelve lines, inserted free. Per line, or fraction thereof over twelve lines, will be charged five cents.

Club Rates furnished for most papers and periodicals.

Bee Publishing Co.,
PUBLISHERS.

ORIGIN OF PETROLEUM.

The Three Leading Theories Advanced by Scientists.

Ever since the discovery of petroleum, and especially since the development of the petroleum industry, there have been numerous theories and speculations advanced for the origin of this truly wonderful fluid. Much thought has been given to the problem and many experiments have been made, chiefly with two objects in view. The first is to find a satisfactory scientific explanation for the occurrence of petroleum and to account for the varied compositions and forms under which it is found. The other, of more practical and general interest, is to determine whether the present supply, as we find it, is to become exhausted in the comparatively near future, or whether nature is still busy manufacturing new stores for coming generations.

Of late the chemist has endeavored to aid the geologist in the solution of this highly interesting and important question, and as a result many new facts have been brought out regarding petroleum and its allied products. These newer facts have in reality reopened the whole matter, which for a time was supposed to be satisfactorily explained and settled. It might, therefore, be of interest to take a short review of the present status of the question.

The first hypothesis advanced to account for the origin of petroleum is similar to the explanation proposed for the formation of coal. According to this view, the remains of the exceedingly luxuriant vegetation of the Devonian period of our earth's history were buried under the accumulations of sand and debris. They were then subjected to a process of decomposition which is partly a fermentation, partly a decay, and chiefly a slow, destructive distillation, the heat for this latter process being derived from the interior of the earth or by the decomposition itself. The vegetable fiber is composed chiefly of the elements carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, and by the above processes these elements are caused to enter into new combinations, the oxygen compound being mostly eliminated, and the hydrogen and carbon combining mostly to form the so-called hydro-carbons. In this way, all the different varieties of coal, of petroleum and of natural gas, which are mixtures of the hydro-carbons, were supposed to have been produced.

This theory, of course, would tend to consider the production of oil and gas as being completed, and does not hold out the hope that they are being formed at present. It was on the whole so plausible and satisfactory that until 1876 no other was advanced. In fact, it is the only one known to the general public and is usually the only one mentioned in the text-books.

However, in the year above mentioned, Byasson, and especially the noted Russian chemist, Mendelejeff, proposed to account for the production of petroleum by a more purely chemical theory. Basing their views upon the teachings of geology and astronomy, they assumed that at a considerable depth from the earth's surface the heavy metals have accumulated in large quantities. As they readily combine with carbon, it is probable that they exist there as incandescant metallic carbides, or, in other words, as compounds of these metals with carbon. It has, moreover, long been known that water is readily decomposed by metallic carbides at high temperatures into its elements, hydrogen and oxygen, and that its hydrogen under these circumstances combines with the carbon of the carbides to produce hydro-carbons. Mendelejeff in this manner accounts for the origin of petroleum by the action of water through openings in the earth's crust upon the molten metallic carbides in the interior.

This hypothesis, which is certainly a very ingenious one, holds out the hope that petroleum and natural gas are being continuously produced, as undoubtedly the masses of metallic carbides are not nearly exhausted. It is rendered somewhat probable by the observation made by Silvestri of the occurrence of petroleum in certain lavas of Etna. But it cannot stand the test of chemical examination. It is also very doubtful whether water could ever reach the molten metals, as it would probably be converted into steam and driven back by the heat of the intervening layers long before it could penetrate to the necessary depth.

The next theory advanced was that of the purely animal origin of petroleum. In 1877 Prof. Hoefer concluded from observed geological conditions of its occurrence that petroleum was produced from the accumulated remains of marine animals, while coal was still conceded to have originated from vegetable debris. This would also explain the often observed fact that petroleum is generally found, not in the rocks where coal is common, but, on the contrary, in such rocks of marine formation in which coal is absent. A great deal has been said and written for and against this explanation, but it is rapidly gaining ground and has obtained wide acceptance, especially in Europe. The chief argument against it was at first the fact that nitrogen was never found in petroleum, while animal matter is always rich in this element. But this objection is easily overcome by the fact that the nitrogen of the animal tissue tends to be eliminated as ammonia. An artificial petroleum, free from nitrogen, has been produced from animal fats. Later investigations have, moreover, proved that many of the petroleums do contain nitrogen and also that petroleum is at present actually being formed on a small scale in the Red sea from the bodies of animal organism. These and many other facts render the chemical evidence in favor of the animal origin of petroleum fairly complete. Unfortunately this theory, like the first one, does not hold out the hope of a continuous supply, or, at most, on a scale too small to be of commercial importance.

The above are the three chief hypotheses advanced for the origin of petroleum; many others have been proposed from time to time, but they have found but little acceptance, for while they may at first sight have seemed plausible, they could not stand the test of critical examination.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

—[illegible] a young man courts his [illegible] room is no sign that he [illegible] operative.—Harlem

THE PEONS OF MEXICO.

A Woman Writes Sympathetically of This Downtrodden People.

Personally, I know the peons well. I have gone among them, in their own places, and I tried to make their wretched existence more endurable sometimes, but they are so poor and there are so many of them, that it would take a great deal to do any good. But they don't expect you to help them; there is a stoical indifference, a submission to fate, about them that shows their Indian blood. They complain not, for they know it would be to no effect. They simply drift along in their dreary, poverty-pinched lives, asking nothing. They are utterly without hope or ambition; the thought of the morrow does not disturb them. They shrug their shoulders if you mention it to them or ask them about the future. "Pues, quien sabe" (who knows?) they say. To-day is all they can cope with—to-morrow may care for itself.

People—philanthropists—should see the places in which the peons live, right here, in this very city of Mexico. I have seen them, and though I have seen slums before this I do not think I care to be again in the filthy, gloomy, pest-stricken parts of this city, where they live just like animals. For one thing, it is hardly safe to go among them too much. They say there are some places here, slums, that even the native police would rather resign their places than go into, and after what I have seen, I am sure that it cannot be a matter of wonder.

It is in these slums that the "tifo" is so horribly fatal. I shall never forget last year, when this dread disease was spread throughout all the city, emanating from the peon slums, when one would see in a single day string after string of cheap, black street cars—I would rather not give the exact numbers—laden with their cheap, black boxes, going out to Dolores, the cemetery. It was certainly a depressing sight, one not easily to be forgotten. When stricken with the disease they could do nothing, of course, for they had no doctors, no medicines, no food—nothing. One needs therefore not wonder when one reads of the terrible work of the typhus and the fearful death rate during the spring months in the City of Mexico.

As a rule, I believe that people don't find peons interesting. Well, even if you care only for the great ones of the earth and the wine and cake of this life, you may want to know how the other half lives, and wish even a taste of the humble tortilla and pulque of the Mexican. But if you have any of the milk of human kindness in you and are of such disposition as to think this self-same peon has a soul just as you have and can feel and be miserable and happy if he has only a tiny chance, you might care to study him. He is worthy of it, for, in his own way, he stands alone, distinct from any other race on earth, descendant as he is of the proud old Toltecs and Aztecs, with a civilization that makes our boasted Anglo-Saxon history seem but a brief tale of yesterday.

The thing that appeals to one most in the peon is his peculiar admixture of aboriginal and Spanish traits. They are the most stoical, most indifferent people, I believe, on earth—that is, the Aztec. Take one of these poor, ragged, dirty fellows wandering along here now in San Juan, barefoot, cold, nothing to warm him but his old ragged tilma, wrapped all around him, and muffling up his face so that only his sad, hopeless eyes can be seen—take him and torture him, as they did here during the frightful days of the persecution—burn him with fire, put him on the rack, or tear the flesh from him bodily—I don't believe that you could make him cry for mercy. Just as his Aztec ancestors, he would suffer anything before that.

They are fatalists. Whatever comes they meet with always the same sad, hopeless submission to fate, expecting nothing else. Poverty and oppression has been their birthright since Cortes, the brutal; that a change should ever come, or that they should rise above it, never seems to enter their minds.

In what strong contrast to the Indian characteristics come out the Spanish traits. The poorest peon among them all has a real, inherent grace and courtesy of manner, a dignity and gentleness, that is odd and pathetic against a background of rags and dirty old tilma and bare brown feet. But it is natural to them; none of it is "put on," as it is so often with the Anglo-Saxon. It is their birthright, and not even the oppression of hundreds of years has been able to take it away from them. I like it myself. It is only this touch of romance, old world grace, that makes these poor ones endurable.

I shall not soon forget being helped once over some stepping stones in the Morelos river, down in the hot country, by a peon. He was clean, thank goodness, but he was barefoot, and had an old battered straw sombrero and ragged cotton clothes. But none of the powdered and beruffled and bewigged courtiers of the year of our Lord 1600 could have taken me across those horrid slippery black rocks more carefully, deferentially, or with more grace and courtesy than that "tierra caliente" peon. If I had slipped, or even got a tiny bit wet, I am sure he would have wept! Yes, it was an experience, and I like to remember it.

And, too, how they do enjoy themselves, if you give them even so tiny an opportunity! Such a little bit of a thing makes them happy—they are more like children than anything else, so easy are they to please, and so little have they to be pleased with. They are fonder of music, flowers and children than any other people in the world, and for this reason one cannot believe them wholly bad.—Providence Journal.

—To "take the cake" is an expression which seems to have originated among the colored people of the south. Cake walks, or promenades in which takes were offered as a reward for grace of demeanor, were formerly common in the southern states, and are even now known in many localities.

He Didn't Want His Life.

Kind Gentleman—That boy just hit you, did he?

Small Boy—Yes, he did.

Kind Gentleman—Well, now, why don't you heap coals of fire on his head, like a good boy?

Small Boy—Do good boys do that?

Kind Gentleman—Yes, indeed, all good boys.

Small Boy—Well, I guess I must be wicked then, 'cause I don't want to burn the chump to death, I just want to punch his head.—Life.

Tragedy in High Life.

A foreign young noble of high degree
Came hunting a wife across the sea
In style as befits the peerage:
But he could not find an American girl
Who cared to purchase a duke or an earl,
And he went back home in the steerage.
—Chicago Tribune.

He—If I am to get ahead in the world, I must take a partner.

She—You might take a silent partner.

He—I don't see how I could, when I —I want you.—Truth.

—Opinions, like showers, are generated in high places, but they invariably descend into lower ones, and ultimately flow down to the people, as rain unto the sea.—Colton.

FIRST FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Supposed to Have Been Started in Boston April 23, 1635.

By means of an old deed exchanged between two of the earliest merchants of Boston, C. E. Ridler locates the site of what many scholars believe to be the first recorded free public school in America, supported by general taxation—namely, on the south side of Cornhill, near Washington street. The triangular block bounded by Court street, Washington and Cornhill was originally devoted to the following public beneficent purposes:

A town corn bin on Cornhill, a prison or house of correction, established in 1633; the school, the first meeting house, occupying the commanding position at the corner of Dock square and Cornhill, and a tavern where the Ames building now is. Opposite on Washington street was placed the parsonage, the shop of Cogan, first merchant; the first market place, where the old statehouse stands, and the armory. Near by were the great dock, the powder magazine, the spring on the hill above, the aqueduct, the great cistern and other safeguards against fire, the town bell, the town clock, the great Indian cemetery, only a few steps away from the earliest burial place of the whites; the town house, the legislature, the criminal and civil courts and the marshal.

The meeting house having been planted in 1632, Cornhill became one of the very earliest streets of Boston. Starting from the site of the meeting house in Washington street, the first great thoroughfare into the interior. His conclusion is strengthened by the fact that there are in the neighborhood picturesque old alleyways, notoriously crooked streets and ten so-called public squares. Just above are the three hills, Pemberton, Mount Vernon and Beacon.

Here also is Tremont Row, where lived Gov. Vane, Gov. Bellingham, Gov. Endicott, the second school-master of Boston; Rev. John Cotton, teacher of the church; his son, Seaborn, and John Hull, the mint master. Here Tremont street begins, another great but newer thoroughfare. The newer Shawmut, on a hill overlooking the valley and the neighboring ocean, was begun by the whites on the spot where the red men left off.

The school was started voluntarily in town meeting, April 23, 1635, two hundred and sixty years ago.—Boston Journal.

Curious Astronomical Calculations.

A European astronomer has recently made some remarkable calculations. He figures that if all the living representatives of the human race were strung out in space, and separated from each other by intervals of a mile, the line would only reach one-third of the distance to the planet Neptune. If separated by distances as great as that between London and Constantinople the line would only reach half way to the nearest star!—Chicago Times-Herald.

A Protest.

Confound those plays where, on the stage,
The actors seem to dine,
And gnawing hunger sausage
With scarce a spoken line;
A Barmecide the feast may be,
But direful is my plight,
For it always gives the girl with me
A dreadful appetite!
—Puck.

Ghurch Directory.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.
First mass, 7:00 a. m.; second mass and sermon, 9:30 a. m. Rosary instruction and benediction at 3:30 p. m. every Sunday. A. M. Coenan, pastor.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.
Services regularly held, morning and evening, every First and Third Sunday in each month. Young Men's Prayer meeting Tuesday night. Regular Prayer meeting Thursday night. Sunday-school at 9:30 a. m. J. W. LIGON, Pastor.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.
Services second Saturday evening and Sunday each month. Prayer meeting Monday night Sunday-chool at 9:30 a. m. D. S. Edwrrds, Pastor

GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH.
Services regularly held at Assembly Hall every second Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday night in each month. J. A. Barden, Pastor.

M. E. CHURCH.
Services first Sunday each month. Sunday school at 2:00 p. m. A. J. BENNETT, Pastor

M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.
Services every fourth Sunday morning and night, by T. C. Peters, Pastor. Prayer meeting every Friday night

Y. P. S. CHRISTIAN ENDEAROR.
Prayer meeting every Sunday evening at 6:30, rt Assembly Hall.

ZION A. M. E. CHURCH.
Services every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, and evening at 7 o'clock. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. W. W. Dawsey, pastor.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH.
Services Sabbath at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. W. W. Foster, pastor.

Madisonville.

CHTISTIAN CHURCH.
Preaching third and fourth Sundays at 10:30 a. m. and 8:00 p. m., by Rev. S. F. Fowler. Communion service every Sunday at 10:30 a. m. Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening at 8:30.

BAPTIST CHURCH.
Preaching every first and third Sunday, morning and evening by Rev. Wyndes. Prayer-meeting Wednesday evening. Sunday-school every Sunday morning at 9:15.

M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.
Preaching every first and third Lord's day, morning and evening, by T. C. Peters. Prayer meeting Thursday evening. Sunday-school every Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Preaching every Second Sabbath at 11 a. m., and 7.30 p. m., by W. A. Boon, Pastor. Prayer-meeting every Friday night at 7.30 o'clock.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
Sunday-school every Sunday morning at 9:15. Peeaching every third Sunday afternoon at 4 rclock.

Lodge Directory.

E. W. TURNER LODGE, No. 548, F. & A. M. Stated meetings the first and third Saturdays in each month at 7:30 p. m. Transient brethren cordially invited to attend. F. B. ARNOLD, W. M
CHAS COWELL, Secretary

ST. BERNARD LODGE, No. 240, I. O. O. F. Meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 p. m. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend.
PIERCE MEYERS, N. G.
C. H. HUNT, Secretary

EARLINGTON COMMANDERY No. 555, UNITED ORDER OF THE GOLDEN CROSS, meets Second and Fourth Saturday nights each month. A cordial invitation is extended visiting Sir Knights and lakies.
J. B. WYATT, N. C.
THOS. N. BLACK, K. of R.

VICTORIA LODGE, No. 84, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS, meets every Monday night in the Masonic building. All members of the order are cordially invited to attend.
CHAS. COWELL, C. C.
W. F. BUSS, K. of R. and S.

HOPKINS LODGE, No. 61, A. O. U. W. meets every Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock p. m. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend
N. W. HUFF, M. W.
E. B. SCRUGGS, Recorder

Official Directory.

State.

Governor John Young Brown.
Lieutenant-Governor Mitchell C. Alford.
Secretary of State John W. Headley.
Assistant Secretary of State Edward O. Leigh.
Private Secretary to Governor Arch D. Brown.
Attorney General W. J. Hendrick.
Auditor L. C. Norman.
Treasurer H. S. Hale.
Superintendent of Public Instruction—Ed. Porter Thompson.
Register Land Office—Green B. Swango.
Insurance Commissioner — Henry F. Duncan; Deputy Commissioner, W. T. Havens.
Adjutant General—A. J. Gross.
Assistant Adjutant General—F. B. Richardson.
Supt. Arsenal—Capt. David O'Connell.
State Inspector of Public Trusts—W. H. Gardner.
Commissioner of Agriculture—Nich. McDowell.
Court of Appeals—Chief Justice, W. S. Pryor; Judges, S. B. Toney, J. R. Grace, T. H. Paynter, B. L. D. Guby, J. H. Hazelrigg, J. B. Lewis.
Reporter, E. W. Hines; Clerk Court Appeals, A. Adams; Deputy Clerks Court Appeals, Robt. L. Green, Wood Longmoor, Jr; Sergeant, G. A. Robertson; Tipstaff, W. S. B. Hill.
Superior Court—Presiding Judge, Jos. Barbour Judges, W. H. Yost, Jr., Jos. Barbour, J. H. Brent.
Librarian—Mrs. Mary Brown Day.
Inspector of Mines—C. J. Norwood.
Railroad Commission—Chairman, C. C. McChord; Secretary, D C. Hardin; Chas B. Poynts, Urey Woodson.

County.

Judge of Circuit Court C. J. Pratt.
Commonwealth's Attorney—John T. Grayot.
Circuit Court Clerk—John Christy.
Judge of County Court—Jno. G. B. Hall.
County Attorney—Roy Salmon.
County Clerk—W. H. Arnold.
Sheriff—Will Thomson.
Jailor—S. F. Offutt.
Superintendent of Schools—Thos. H. Smith.
Coroner—Jno. H. Booth.

MAGISTRATES:

First District—Henry Shaw.
Second Distaict—O. J. Farnsworth.
Third District—J. C. Bacon.
Fourth District—T. P. Jones.
Fifth District—H. F. Porter.
Sixth District—W. H. Cato.